

war. Armaments, alliances, and economic nationalism are the measure of our alarm. The root of the trouble is the existence of frontiers imposed in defiance of the sentiments of millions of aggrieved human beings. The rule of war is that the loser pays, but never before have there been so many losers to complain. The ultimate purpose of the armaments piling up before our eyes is to challenge or to preserve the territorial *status quo*. Resentment of an alien yoke is an ineradicable instinct. The minority clauses of the treaties, well intentioned as they were and useful as they should be in diminishing the material and psychological importance of boundaries, are only applicable in certain states, and even in these they are often scandalously ignored. Our ears are assailed by shrill cries from the opposing camps : War unless territorial revision! Territorial revision means war! Both may be right. Petty concessions would be useless, and large transfers are at present ruled out by the popular will. When some state comes forward and announces its readiness to lay a substantial portion of its possessions as an offering on the altar of peace, revision will come within the range of practical politics. Till then it is a dream. Article XIX of the Covenant, it is true, stares us in the face. " The Assembly may from time to time advise the reconsideration by members of the League of treaties which have become inapplicable, and the consideration of international conditions whose continuance might endanger the peace of the world." The phraseology is elastic, and it was this article which partially reconciled Wilson to the surrender of his hopes. Yet it has never been used. The hungry sheep look up but are not fed.

Where is the road of escape from this threatening impasse, in which the victors cling to their conquests and the vanquished

to their claims ? There is no lack of confident
replies, but
they are one and all academic in character.
Nothing short
of a world state can save us, argues Mr. Wells.
A rhain of
socialist communities, we are told by other
publicists, would
suppress the economic imperialism inherent in
capitalist
communities, and thereby remove the chief
incentive to war.
Such a prescription, even if its argument be
accepted, is useless
for the urgent task of saving humanity from
another blood-
bath during the next few years. For the speedy
conversion
of the world to socialism is no more probable
than the uni-
versal adoption of the Sermon on the Mount as,
the rule of
public life. Leaving such long-term remedies to
the future we